

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a porous first material impregnated with a second material, said first material selected from the group consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, ZnO, SiO₂, Ag₂O, and combinations thereof, and said second material selected from the group consisting of Ag, Hg, [[Au,]] Sn, Ga, In, ~~and and~~ cations thereof, and oxides thereof.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, said second material being a soft Lewis acid.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, said first material having a pore volume of at least about 0.3 cm³/g and an average pore opening size of at least about 4 nm.
6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 5, said pore volume being at least about 0.8 cm³/g and said pore opening size being at least 8 nm.
7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, said first material having a surface area of at least about 100 m²/g.
8. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a plurality of agglomerated nanocrystalline particles including a porous first material impregnated with a second material, said first material selected from the group consisting of metal oxides and metal hydroxides MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, ZnO, SiO₂, Ag₂O, and combinations thereof, and said second material selected from the group consisting of Ag, Hg, Au,

Sn, Ga, In, and Pt, and cations thereof, and oxides thereof, said composite retaining at least about 25% of the total pore volume of said first material prior to agglomeration thereof.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The composite of claim 8, said second material being a soft Lewis acid.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 8, said first material having a pore volume of at least about $0.3 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$ and an average pore opening size of at least about 4 nm.

13. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 12, said pore volume being at least about $0.8 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$ and said pore opening size being at least 8 nm.

14. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 8, said first material having a surface area of at least about $100 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The composite of claim 8, said composite being in the form of extruded pellets.

17. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a plurality of agglomerated nanocrystalline particles, said particles consisting of a member selected from the group consisting of Ga_2O_3 , In_2O_3 , SnO , $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$, and $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{In}_2\text{O}_3$, and $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ and having an average

particle size between about 3-30 nm, said composite retaining at least about 25% of the total pore volume of said particles prior to agglomeration thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 17, said particles having a surface area between about 30-700 m²/g prior to agglomeration thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 17, said particles having a pore volume of at least about 0.2 cm³/g and an average pore opening size of at least about 4 nm prior to agglomeration thereof.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim [[20]] 17, said composite being in the form of extruded pellets.

24-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a porous first material impregnated with a second material, said composition comprising particles having an average crystallite size of less than about 15 nm, said first material selected from the group consisting of metal oxides and metal hydroxides MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, Al₂O₃, ZnO, SiO₂, Ag₂O, and combinations thereof, and said second material selected from the group consisting of Ag, Hg, Au, Sn, Ga, In, Pt, metal cations thereof, and oxides thereof.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 43, said first material having a pore volume of at least about $0.3 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$ and an average pore opening size of at least about 4 nm.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a plurality of agglomerated nanocrystalline particles including a porous first material impregnated with a second material, said particles having an average crystallite size of less than about 15 nm, said first material selected from the group consisting of metal oxides and metal hydroxides MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, FeO, V₂O₅, V₂O₃, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, Al₂O₃, ZnO, SiO₂, Ag₂O, and combinations thereof, and said second material selected from the group consisting of Ag, Hg, Au, Sn, Ga, In, Pt, metal cations thereof, and oxides thereof, said composite retaining at least about 25% of the total pore volume of said particles prior to agglomeration thereof.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 47, said first material having a pore volume of at least about $0.3 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$ and an average pore opening size of at least about 4 nm.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 47, said composite being in the form of extruded pellets.